

Winter Wonderland, p.12



In-person Craft Fair, p.12

## Your New Year's Resolution Can Support the News Review

by Cathie Meetre

Many organizations send out last-ditch pleas for money at the end of the year. But this newspaper doesn't bludgeon readers for their hard-earned cash – instead it asks for their time. We want your help, your expertise and your commitment. (Though we'll take your money too, if you insist.)

### Key Needs

We had several retirements in 2021, perhaps accelerated by Covid but also in the natural course of things. We were particularly hard hit on our advertising desk where we interact with advertisers in pricing, recording and receiving ads and payments. Our accounting team, the other essential

key to our financial health, is also shorthanded. We need an accountant to assist in preparing financial statements and book-keeping help for week-to-week recordkeeping. We need people with some comfort and familiarity with computers, particularly with spreadsheets or with QuickBooks, our accounting system.

### Commitment

If you want to do a power of good for this community with a weekly commitment of time between two and six hours, we'd love to hear from you. There is a small dividend payment available to members for each shift they work (we are a worker co-operative) though some members

decline to take it. A shift is approximately two to three hours with some members working one, some several, as they choose.

The newspaper is currently working in person in its office in the Community Center, with limits on the number of staff in the room; masks are required and there is no access to the public. The ad desk has specific office hours to take care of the phones but there is some flexibility in when and where other aspects of the tasks may be tackled. Some roles can be done all or partially from home.

To inquire, email [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

## Accolades Follow Decades Of Service as Sterling Retires

by Matthew Arbach

Director of Public Works Jim Sterling has retired after 37-and-a-half years as an essential part of the City of Greenbelt. During that time, he has played many roles and applied his expertise in myriad ways especially in the areas of construction, planning and code enforcement. Sterling characterized his career as "a good ride" and was grateful for the "good opportunities" that came his way and the many relationships he developed through his efforts.

Sterling began his career in 1982 as a summer help worker earning \$3.37 per hour. In 1984, he returned full-time as a street crew and maintenance worker for the Public Works Department. City Manager Jim Giese offered Sterling a job in administration in 1990 with the position of construction inspector, the city's first, and a duty



Jim Sterling

PHOTO BY BEVERLY PALAU

until 2011. In 2011, he returned to Public Works as assistant director, where in 2014, he became acting director and then director to the present day.

Some of the biggest projects he was part of were the making of Schrom Hills Park, the construction of the fitness wing at the Aquatic & Fitness Center, the skatepark, two renovations of the Old Greenbelt Theatre and his first project, the Centerway reconstruction. Along the way, there was a long list of smaller projects, most of which involved the city's right of way, including road and storm drain maintenance.

### Growing Capabilities

The city provided constant educational opportunities to Sterling, helping him keep abreast of the ongoing changes in code inspection through licensing and certifications, many acquired at

See **STERLING**, page 9



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

Stream Valley Park trail in the snow on Monday, January 3

## Greenbelt Moments 2021

The following short reflections address the wide diversity of activities, programs and celebrations that took place during 2021 throughout the city. They speak of community, tolerance and generosity. Thanks to the original contributors whose stories provided material for this selection: Matthew Arbach, Deanna Dawson, Amy Hansen, Lois Rosado, Brittany N. Gaddy, Jon Gardner, Kyla Hanington, Diane Oberg, Melissa Sites, René Sewell-Rayson and Melinda Thompson. And thanks to the many Greenbelters who made life better in a difficult year by providing food for both body and soul.



PHOTO BY SHARON NATOLI

Greenbelt's 2021 Outstanding citizen, Shaymar Higgs, is driven by Dea Zugby in the Labor Day Festival Parade.

### Shaymar Higgs, Greenbelt's 2021 Outstanding Citizen

At the 2021 Labor Day Festival, Shaymar Higgs was awarded the distinction of Outstanding Citizen. Younger than most of those who receive this award, Higgs burst onto the Greenbelt arts scene a few years ago by opening a revolutionary art center within Beltway Plaza called THE SPACE. Higgs, who has exhibited his own art at the New Deal Café and the Whitman Walker Clinic in downtown D.C., created THE SPACE to provide opportunities for local people to participate in art endeavors for free. THE SPACE also now partners with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System to provide books and other resources for young bilingual readers, as well as graphic novels and other

See **MOMENTS**, page 7

## Covid-19 Omicron Rampages Through the County and State

by Cathie Meetre

Data for the 20770 zip code specifically are still not yet available due to the Maryland state data security breach that affected Covid data sets. Some numbers have emerged at the county level to give a partial indication of what may be happening here and nearby – and there's no doubt the county is solidly in the red zone for high community transmission and so, most likely, is Greenbelt. On January 4, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency giving hospitals in the state more flexibility in staffing and mobilizing the National Guard. Overall, he reported that the number of hospitalized patients had increased some 500 percent in the last seven weeks.

This presents a confusing picture, especially as not all Covid statistics are yet available online to allow visibility into the detailed local numbers. Hogan also said that he was working to accelerate the availability of rapid tests.

### Reader Beware

It is vital, if perusing websites on local data, to look closely at the dates. At the time this article was written, the Prince George's County Covid-19 Dashboard mixes data from the last week in November with data current on January 2 – often on the same page. To access the dashboard,

See **COVID-19**, page 11

### What Goes On

**Monday, January 10**  
8 p.m. City Council Meeting  
**Wednesday, January 12**  
8 p.m. Council Worksession: TBD

All meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov) for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.



**Nine inches and we can prove it.**



# Community Events

## Local Blood Drives In January, February

As a result of low blood-donor turnout in recent months, the Red Cross is heading into the holidays with its lowest blood supply in more than a decade.

To help, Greenbelt Recreation is holding blood drives on Fridays, January 14 and February 11. Multiple appointment times are available at each drive, but they fill up fast and walk-ins are not permitted.

Find the drives and sign up at [redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive](http://redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive). Search zip code 20770 under Find a Drive.

## Join a Composting Workout Saturday

On Saturday, January 8, join in a composting work session anytime between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the three-bin hot composting station behind Roosevelt Center, alongside the Aquatic Center. This is a chance to burn some post-holiday calories and commune safely with others outdoors. Help build a compost pile and learn about how hot composting works. Elementary through high school kids are invited to join in. There's lots of work to be done.

Volunteers can help chop buckets of food waste donated from the Co-op Supermarket, or mix food with browns and water to get the cook going. Then the buckets need to be washed. Snacks will be provided.

After the cook, when temperatures rise to 130 to 150 degrees, which destroys seeds and pathogens, experienced volunteers will feed the "yummy" mix to red wiggler worms living on the loading dock of the New Deal Café. To help with that (every Sunday), reply to the email below.

To keep food scraps from the landfill where they produce methane, one of the worst greenhouse gases, and learn more about composting, join other composters. Email [NewDealWigglers@gmail.com](mailto:NewDealWigglers@gmail.com) to join in or for more information.

## Democratic Club Pays Tribute To Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

by Konrad Herling

The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club, in concert with State Senator Paul Pinsky and Delegates Alonzo Washington, Anne Healey and Nicole Williams as well as other residents of Maryland's 22nd Legislative District, will pay tribute to the life and spirit of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a Zoom gathering the evening of Monday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m. Attendees must register by Saturday, January 15 at 2 p.m. by calling 301-858-3155 to receive the Zoom link. People can also reserve a Grab and Go meal from Three Brothers when registering for the event.

Each state representative will speak about the priceless contributions of the civil rights leader, as will a guest speaker of note. Previous keynote guest speakers have included Dr. Charlene Dukes, former president of Prince George's Community College, and Dr. Alvin Thornton, former chair of the Prince George's

## Learn the Talk Of Climate Change

Climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe says the most important thing to do about climate change is to talk about it.

The best way to do so locally is to join the Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) on Wednesday, January 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. for their next virtual meeting, via Zoom. Watch a short video of Dr. Hayhoe, then participate in a discussion.

During the latter part of the meeting, there will be brief updates on the state, county and local campaigns GCAN is following. The evening will round out with announcements of upcoming events.

Find more information, including the Zoom link, at [chears.org/gcan](http://chears.org/gcan). On the website, preview the video or read a recent book review of Hayhoe's book, *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*.

For questions, contact Lore Rosenthal by email, [SimplicityGroupsMD@gmail.com](mailto:SimplicityGroupsMD@gmail.com), or phone, 301-345-2234 (landline, no text).



## City Offers Rent, Utility Assistance

Through CARES, those who live within the city limits of Greenbelt are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 per household from the American Rescue Plan Act federal funds for emergency rental assistance. Applicants must show financial hardship due to Covid-19. Previous recipients of rental or utility assistance funds can apply but the previous balances count toward the total grant award allowed.

Email [Cares@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:Cares@greenbeltmd.gov) or call 301-345-6660 to receive an application.

County Board of Education. It is always a surprise as to who has been selected to speak at this special event so, by all means, take advantage of this opportunity.

The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club was founded in 1976 to further the principles of the Democratic Party and to help elect its candidates in general elections. The club will also help organize voter registration efforts during the next several months which will be in evidence at key locations in the Greenbelt area this coming spring. For more information about the club and its activities, call Konrad Herling at 301-345-9369 or view the organization's website at [rooseveltclub.com](http://rooseveltclub.com).



## Explore Mindful Creativity Sunday

This Sunday, January 9, is the next installment of the monthly online mindfulness meetings from Greenbelt Unplugged and the first of the new year. This session will explore creativity in daily life. All are welcome and there is no charge. The meeting goes from 1:30 to 3 p.m. and is held over Zoom (meeting id is 869 1887 7769, passcode is 016110). To avoid typing errors, get a simple link to the meeting by sending an email to [events@greenbeltunplugged.org](mailto:events@greenbeltunplugged.org).

## GHI Seeks Member Input in Survey

The Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Transition Task Force is seeking members' help to inform GHI's preparation for a general manager leadership transition. Eldon Ralph became general manager in 2011 and has indicated that he has begun to think about retirement.

The task force has prepared a short survey that asks members what they would like to see changed at GHI, what should stay the same and what are key attributes of the next general manager. This feedback will help the board of directors understand members' wishes for the leadership transition and inform the board of what types of candidates to look for and ultimately select.

In addition to helping inform the transition and to encourage and thank members for participating, six survey respondents will be randomly chosen to receive \$50 gift certificates to the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket. To be entered into the raffle, name and address must be entered where indicated in the survey. To foster prompt participation, two of the six gift certificates will be awarded to members who have responded by Friday, January 21.

The link to the Google survey form is: [surveymonkey.com/r/WDF7LKM](https://surveymonkey.com/r/WDF7LKM). Paper copies of the survey are available from the GHI administration office during usual business hours. Completed surveys may be returned to the office. Members are requested to complete online surveys and return paper surveys to the office before February 9. Complete only one survey per member.



## Paper Star Workshop On Zoom on Saturday

Learn how to make folded paper stars to hang in your windows in a free online workshop with Greenbelter Ingrid Hass at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 8. 'Kite paper' is recommended for best results (available at amazon.com and some craft stores). Contact [info@cpae.org](mailto:info@cpae.org) to receive the Zoom link. Sponsored by College Park Arts Exchange.

**LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW**  
Visually impaired may listen for free  
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear  
301-681-6636  
No special equipment needed

## Porch Greenbelt January Collection

Thanks to the generosity of Greenbelters, in the 10 months of 2021 since Porch Greenbelt started, more than three tons of food were collected and distributed to needy residents.

Porch Greenbelt is continuing its program to collect food in the month of January as scheduled below:

By 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 9 for Woodland Hills

By 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 9 at the 1-8 Courts Ridge, 1-8 Courts Crescent and 1-2 Courts Westway

Between 2 and 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 16 for all of Boxwood Village

Between 9 and 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 15 for 14 and 15 Laurel Hill Courts.

This month, the group highlights the 135 pounds donated by Ridge, Crescent and Westway friends in December. Thanks to all the Greenbelt residents who have made donations and are making an important difference in the community.

The food collection program in Greenbelt has been expanded to accommodate those who do not live in a neighborhood with volunteer pickups. This new program, Porch At Large, continues this month. To participate, email your address to [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com) before noon Sunday, January 16, and it will be picked up at 4 p.m. on January 16. To make this a regular monthly donation, indicate so in the email and it will be picked up on the third Sunday of each month at 4 p.m.

For all donors, place donations in bags or boxes marked PORCH or RUAK on a front porch or other location that can be seen from the street. Also, make sure to check the expiration dates on all food items.

Volunteers who would expand Porch Greenbelt to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are welcome. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Porch Greenbelt, contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com).

## GHI Workdays, Information Meetings

Help fight invasives and plant natives! The GHI Woodlands Committee is hosting invasive plant removal workdays on Saturday and Sunday, January 8 and 9, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. From 11 a.m. to noon both days there will be an informational meeting about the installation of a living willow shrub fence and native plant propagation area. Meet at the picnic table between 8 and 10 Courts Laurel Hill Road. The group will work next to the blackberry patch at the woodland edge.

**What to bring:**

1. A face mask for when you are in proximity to others. All participants are required to socially distance as much as possible for their safety and that of others.
2. Clothes that cover your skin. Wear leather gloves and thick pants to protect against scratches.
3. A chair for sitting during the informational meeting.
4. Tools and equipment will be provided, but bring pruners, loppers, or a shovel if you have them to facilitate other volunteers' involvement.

For more information, contact [BryanBruns@yahoo.com](mailto:BryanBruns@yahoo.com).

## Help Deliver U.N. Treaty Mementos

The U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons came into force on January 22, 2021 after 50 nation states had ratified it. In order to raise awareness of the treaty, the Peace and Justice Coalition and other groups will deliver a certificate of appreciation and a yellow rose to the embassies of these treaty nations in the week leading up to the first anniversary of the treaty. Only 47 of the nations that have ratified the treaty have embassies in D.C. Several small teams will be responsible for presenting the certificate to a limited number of embassies. If interested in participating on Tuesday, January 18, contact Donna Hoffmeister at [justpeacepg@gmail.com](mailto:justpeacepg@gmail.com).

Greenbelt Access Television

### Greenbelt Access Television

**Jan 7, Fri – Jan 13, Thu**

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77  
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)  
Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station		
7am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
8am	Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	GATe Classic Film • Animated Musical	The Snow Queen • 1957 and Betty Boop
11am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	Charles Carroll v Oxon Hill Middle
2pm	Music at the New Deal	La Unica (2nd Set) • Irish Folk • Latin • Funk
3pm	GATe Classic Film • Animated Musical	The Snow Queen • 1957 and Betty Boop
5pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	Charles Carroll v Oxon Hill Middle
6pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
7pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
8pm	GATe Classic Film • Animated Musical	The Snow Queen • 1957 and Betty Boop
10pm	Music at the New Deal	La Unica (2nd Set) • Irish Folk • Latin • Funk
11pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming

Connect with GATe [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)



# Obituaries

## Jean Smith



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Jean Fields Smith

Former Greenbelt resident Jean Fields Smith of Clarksville, Ark., died on December 22, 2021, at age 80. Jean was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., on April 5, 1941, to Charles V. and Doris H. Fields. A resident of Churchill Borough, Pa., she attended Wilksburg High School and in 1963 earned a B.A. in history at Juniata College. She became familiar with computers working at the High-Altitude Observatory and met Gary E. Smith while taking graduate courses at the University of Colorado. Jean and Gary married in Boulder, Colo., on January 30, 1965, and spent the next few years in San Antonio, Texas, where Gary served in the Air Force.

Gary's career took the family to the Washington, D.C., area where they settled in Greenbelt. Being a homemaker and raising two daughters was Jean's love. She volunteered with the Girl Scouts, produced puppet shows with Gary and played clarinet. An early adopter of technology, Jean bought an Apple IIc to create mimeograph masters to print programs for the Greenbelt Concert Band.

Subsequently earning a B.S. in math education and widowed in 1985, Jean found employment

teaching math to homebound students. Later she served as an administrative assistant, first at Foundry United Methodist Church and then at the University of Maryland.

In 1992, Jean moved to Clarksville, Ark., a college town that reminded her of the rolling hills of western Pennsylvania of her childhood. Having converted to Catholicism in 1991, Jean endeavored to learn Spanish to befriend Spanish-speaking members of her new church. For many years she was active with the choir and was a regular reader at weekday masses. Jean also built relationships with international students at the University of the Ozarks.

Jean loved flowering plants and enjoyed taking pictures of beautiful scenery. She listened to audio books and was proficient at handwork such as sewing, knitting and crocheting. In the last few years, she especially enjoyed annual vacations to national parks, cities and other attractions with her daughter Cathy.

Persevering and courageous to the end, her greatest desire was to be a friend to all. She is survived by younger brother John Fields in Bixby, Okla.; daughters Wendy Smith Burch (Jeff) and Cathy Smith in Maryland; and grandchildren Benjamin, Stephanie and Jasper.

A funeral mass will be held at Subiaco Abbey in Arkansas on Thursday, January 6 at 1 p.m. Streaming service instructions for the service will be posted in the online obituary at [hardwickefuneral.com](http://hardwickefuneral.com). Her ashes will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with her husband, Gary. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Focus on the Family ([focusonthefamily.com](http://focusonthefamily.com)) or Holy Redeemer Catholic Church ([hrclarksville.org](http://hrclarksville.org)).



PHOTO BY JEFFREY ALLEN JONES

The Lake trail after the storm

## Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.



## Christmas Tree Drop-off

Your discarded Christmas tree can be dropped off for recycling until February 11, wherever you see one of these signs. See city ad on page 5 for locations. Please ensure all ornaments and lights are removed.



PHOTO BY SANDY RODGERS

Jackson Pollock-like drop-lots decorate a Christmas Tree dropoff sign.

## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Reverend Rivera, Pastor

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Come have an Epiphany with us!

"The purpose for which mortal men have, from utter nothingness, stepped into the realm of being, is that they may work for the betterment of the world and live together in concord and harmony. Dissension and strife have always been, and shall remain, rejected by God." – Bahá'í'lláh



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

## Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

All services and activities are currently virtual

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

January 9 10 a.m.

Sacred Rest: A Unitarian Universalist Sabbath

Rev. Ann Kadlecik with Worship Associate Diana McFadden

The spiritual practice of Sabbath was so central to ancient Israelite religion that it was one of the Ten Commandments from God. While it is still central for many of the Israelites' religious descendants, it can be hard for others to imagine incorporating Sabbath into our demanding, high-tech lives. But what if we tried? What might Sabbath have to offer us, today?



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
of GREENBELT

During the pandemic, we  
gather VIRTUALLY for  
Liturgy of the Word  
Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link:

[FDeBernardo@aol.com](mailto:FDeBernardo@aol.com)

Greenbelt  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)



The Bible Says...

"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted,  
forgiving each other,  
just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

Ephesians 4:32



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services  
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School

[MCFcc.org](http://MCFcc.org)

Greenbelt  
Community  
Church

Whoever you are  
and wherever you are  
on your  
Spiritual journey,  
you are welcome HERE.

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
God is still speaking

This Sunday's Sermon  
on Facebook Live  
Sunday at 10:15

Epiphanies: Rippling  
into Wider Circles

[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.  
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

\*Live  
streamed  
on  
Facebook  
and  
available  
on our  
YouTube  
page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.

[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)



**At the Library**

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System’s (PGCMLS) supply of Covid-19 rapid antigen self-test kits has been exhausted. An announcement will be issued via pgcmls.info and @PGCMLS on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram when additional test kits become available. Customers should call 240-455-5451 or email askalibrarian@pgcmls.info with questions.

Library staff are maintaining a Covid-19 Testing Resources guide that can help individuals source PCR and rapid antigen testing from various local and online providers. Visit pgcmls.info/coronavirus for more information.

**Covid Vaccines**

The remaining PGCMLS Covid-19 vaccine clinics are both at the New Carrollton branch library. First, second or booster doses of the Pfizer vaccine are available at each clinic. Appointments are not required. The supply of vaccines is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Vaccines for children are going quickly at the PGCMLS clinics and may not be available toward the end of the scheduled clinic time. Dates are: Monday, January 10, noon to 5 p.m. for ages 5 and up, and Tuesday, January 18, from 5 to 7 p.m., ages 12 and up. At the second clinic, flu shots are also offered.

**U.S. Passports**

The Greenbelt Library, along with five other PGCMLS branches (Accokeek, Largo-Kettering, Laurel, New Carrollton and Oxon Hill), has resumed service as a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility. Applications are accepted by appointment, so schedule a 30-minute appointment by calling 240-455-5451 or visiting pgmls.info/passport-services. Families with multiple applicants must schedule separate appointments for each person.

**FAFSA Help**

Live assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application is offered via Brainfuse HelpNow. This service provides students and families with personalized support as they navigate the process of applying to college and seeking federal financial aid. Tutors are available Mondays through Thursdays from 2 to 11 p.m. to assist students and parents with the FAFSA application at any stage in the application process.

**Donate Sneakers For People in Need**

The Board of Congregational Life at Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment. The sneakers are sent to countries where the poor often go barefoot out of necessity. For more information about GotSneakers, go to their website at GotSneakers.com.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time. GotSneakers will pay GCC a varying amount for name-brand and off-brand laced-up sneakers with no tears inside or outside. The company even pays for cleaning and shipping – all GCC does is collect sneakers.



# City Information & Events

*The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.*

## GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING Monday, January 10, 2022 at 8:00pm

### ORGANIZATION

Roll Call  
Call to Order  
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag  
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by \*] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)  
Approval of Agenda and Additions

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Presentations

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Proclamation  
- Lt. Col John Carr, Bureau of Field Ops Chief/Asst. Sheriff will discuss the eviction process in Prince George’s County

#### Petitions and Requests

\* Minutes of Council Meetings

#### Administrative Reports

\* Committee Reports

### LEGISLATION

- Police Reform Procedures for the Greenbelt Police Department - *2nd Reading, Adoption*  
- A Resolution to negotiate the purchase of consulting planning and engineering services from Dewberry for the WMATA Trail Project Project at a cost to exceed \$10,000 - *2nd Reading, Adoption*  
- An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 12, “Parks And Recreation,” Article IX, “Forest Preserve,” Of The Greenbelt City Code For The Purpose Of Designating A City-Owned Parcel As Forest Preserve Area (Greenbriar Preserve) - *1st Reading*  
- Ms. Ard Payout Resolution

### OTHER BUSINESS

- Council Standing Rules  
- Council Activities  
- Council Reports  
- Bond Bill Priorities

### MEETINGS

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at 301-474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.*

## VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 10-14

Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, *On the Agenda: Call to Order, Review Past Meeting Minutes, Old Business, New Business - Discussion of Arbor Day Event, Adjourn.*

Wednesday, January 12 at 8 pm, **WORK SESSION – TBD**, *Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and streaming at greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv*

Wednesday, January 13 at 7:30 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Welcome, Introduction, & Community Pledge; Discussion: Draft Follow-Up Report to Council Related to Police Reform; Status of Other Council Referrals; Ear to the Ground; Other Topics to Raise.*

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at 301-474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov*

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the *Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland*, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on **Thursday, January 6 , 2022, at 8:00 pm**, virtually via Zoom to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

The purpose of this meeting will be to meet with the Acting City Manager.

**\* The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council immediately prior to the closed session, and observe the vote of Council to move into closed session on Thursday, January 6th, 2022.**

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

### CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION!

Your discarded Christmas tree can be recycled. Public Works will pickup trees at locations listed online. Please insure all ornaments and lights are removed. Drop off your trees for recycling at specified areas up until February 11, 2022.

#### GHI

· Ridge Road, 73 Court (opposite playground)  
· Plateau Place and Ridge Road (corner on playground side)  
· Research Road and Hillside Road (corner)  
· Ridge Road, 44 Court (Area near playground)  
· Eastway & Crescent Road (corner)  
· Ridge Road, 21 Court (across from Green Ridge House)

· Crescent Road and Ridge Road (playground at junction)  
· Parkway (corner across from 58 Court Crescent Road)  
· Parkway (corner across from Community Church)  
· Southway, 7 Court (playground at Little League field)  
· Ridge Road, 11 Court and 13 Court (area between courts)

#### BOXWOOD

· Ivy Lane and Lastner Lane (playground)

#### Lakewood

· Greenhill Road & Crescent Road (by Baptist Church)

**CHARLESTOWNE VILLAGE AND CHARLESTOWNE NORTH**  
· Property adjacent to Attic Park

#### UNIVERSITY SQUARE

· In front of swimming pool

#### LAKESIDE NORTH

· Near Swimming pool

#### SPRINGHILL LAKE

· Field past 9294 Edmonston

#### GREENBRIAR

· Between buildings 7708 & 7710  
· Between buildings 7728 & 7730  
· Between buildings 7826 & 7828  
· Between buildings 8003 & 8009

#### GLEN OAKS

· Between buildings 7903 & 7905  
· Between buildings 7509 & 7511

#### HUNTING RIDGE

· Between buildings 6936 & 6978

#### WINDSOR GREEN

· At court entrances, picked up by Windsor Green staff

## MOM'S MORNING OUT

*Does your pre-school aged child enjoy helping you cook, like exploring, and love to learn? Then check out Greenbelt Recreation's pre-school programs Mom's Morning Out and Pre-School Enrichment and Fun.*

Mom's Morning Out is a licensed traditional pre-school program that focuses on social development, fine and gross motor skills, listening, and following instructions. The Pre-School Enrichment and Fun program focuses on group games, sports skills, cooking classes, nature walks, science experiments, and much more. Both programs have a heavy emphasis on learning in a fun way! We offer pre-school programs Monday through Friday at the Youth Center. Financial aid is available for eligible Greenbelt residents.

**For more information, visit our Virtual Recreation Center online at [greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](https://greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) or give us a call at 301-397-2200.**

## GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT

**Starts on Wednesday, January 12, 2022**

### Free services offered:

Diapers, formula, baby accessories monthly; baby wellness nursing assessment; baby milestone progress review; information/resource linkage; healthy eating education

**To register, call 240-542-2019 or email [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov)**

## JOIN THE CHESAPEAKE CONSERVATION CORPS

This year, the City of Greenbelt's Department of Public Works is one of the many potential Host Organizations for the 2022-23 Chesapeake Conservation Corps service year. If successfully matched with the City of Greenbelt, you would be involved with multiple projects centered on natural resources management and sustainability.

Applications for the Chesapeake Conservation Corps and the Equity Fellowship must be submitted through the Trust's online system by **March 3, 2022 at 4:00 pm**.

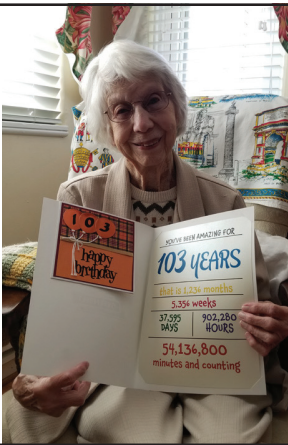
To learn more and apply go to <https://cbtrust.org/chesapeake-conservation-corps/apply/>

## CELEBRATION OF CENTENARIANS

The City of Greenbelt would like to celebrate Greenbelt residents who have reached the milestone age of 100 years. If you would like to recognize your loved one or a friend, please contact Rebekah Sutfin 240-542-2056 or email at [rsutfin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:rsutfin@greenbeltmd.gov)

*The Centenarian will choose from a variety of options to celebrate their birthday!*

**Photo: Mrs. Mary Rita Babbitt celebrated her 103rd Birthday on October 21, 2021.**



## ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM & PAINT RECYCLING

**Saturday, January 22, 2022  
9 AM - 12 NOON**

**Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent**

NO Alkaline Batteries

NO Tube TVs

\$5 per paint container

**Questions? Call 301-474-8004**

## GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER IS SEEKING NEW TEAM MEMBERS!

Recreation Assistants  
(Community Center)

Part-time, supportive work culture. If you enjoy working with the public, please apply at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs)

## GREEN RIDGE HOUSE OPENS WAIT LIST

Green Ridge House, the City of Greenbelt's HUD Section 8-202 apartment building, will open its waiting list from Tuesday, January 18 thru 21, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Green Ridge House is an independent living apartment building located at 22 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. All applicants must apply in person and be 62 years of age or older. All applicants must have with them a valid State ID or Driver's License and their Social Security card. We cannot accept an application without these two items. All applicants will have a credit and criminal background check performed to determine eligibility. Applicants should be prepared to move within 30 days once they receive a call that a unit is available. Rent is based upon 30 percent of one's income within a maximum gross income of \$45,150 for individuals and \$51,600 for couples. All apartments are one-bedroom units. Only applicants who would consider moving within the next 6 months to one year should apply.

**If you have any questions, contact Kim Potts 301-474-7595**



### GREENBROOK VILLAGE AND ESTATES

· Southeast corner of Ora Glen Drive & Matthew Drive  
· Southeast corner of Hanover Parkway and Greenbrook Drive  
· In front of barricade at Mandan Road & Matthew St

### GREENWOOD VILLAGE

· Opposite 8175 Mandan  
· Opposite 7648 Mandan  
· Opposite 7648 Mandan

### GREENSPRING AND GREENSPRING II

· Southwest corner of Megan Lane and Craddock Road  
· Park area between 7926 and 8006 Greenbury Drive  
· Corner of Spring Manor Drive and Springshire Way  
· Open area between 6519 and 6515 Springcrest Drive

### BELLE POINT

· Corner of Vanity Fair Dr. and Prince James Way  
· Open area between 7800 and 7801 Vanity Fair Dr.  
· Open area beside 7962 Vanity Fair Drive

### GREENBELT VILLAGE

· Open area between 6729 & 6715 Village Park Drive  
· Open area across from 6632 Lake Park Drive  
· Open area across from 6510 & 6512 Lake Park Drive

### GREENBELT STATION

· Central Park field along Stream Bank Lane



Remembering Greenbelters  
Who Died in 2021

Yakini Ajanaku, 68, January, 2021  
Cecilia M. Barton, 93, August 13, 2021  
Alto Wallace Bell, 97, February 3, 2021  
Frank Ray Bequette, 83, May 31, 2021  
Mary Margaret Blizard, 71, March 6, 2021  
Gabrielle Van Camp, 98, November 28, 2021  
Mary Xakallis Chapman, 88, December 6, 2021  
Mary Patricia “Pat” Naughton Charter, 81, August 29, 2021  
Phyllis Jean Cook, 87, May 19, 2021  
Judith Cromer, 79, September 22, 2021  
Ronald O. Dean, 77, November 7, 2021  
John F. “Jack” Downs, Jr., 91, October 14, 2021  
James “Jimmy” Drake, 83, September 2, 2021  
William “Bill” Wallace Duncan, III, 72, March 5, 2021  
Bill Dunn, October 23, 2021  
Ruth Vondras Durantine, 94, February 25, 2021  
Mohammad “Moe” Taghi Eskandari, January 6, 2021  
Eileen Scott Adkins Farnham, 79, March 9, 2021  
Judith Farrall, 74, November 18, 2021  
Winifred Fike, 98, November 21, 2021  
Lois Rae Funk, 83, November 1, 2021  
Julie Gaebe, 74, November 26, 2021  
William “Bill” Gailes, 65, November 12, 2021  
Merritt Post Gardner, 87, December 30, 2021  
Gerald “Jerry” Gough, 89, January 1, 2021  
Emily Bugg Guard, 74, June 10, 2021  
Stephen Hesnan, 66, December 31, 2020  
Edward Rhea Hickey, 77, October 17, 2021  
David Hunt, December 19, 2021  
Maureen “Moe” Woodward Irving, 71, July 24, 2021  
Alverta “Bert” Shanahan Kennedy, 95, March 15, 2021  
Ivania Lee, 31, May 10, 2021  
Ryan Lee, Sr., 30, May 10, 2021  
Shirley Middleton, October 13, 2021  
Vinie Quinn Miller, 99, June 1, 2021  
Gerald F. Muller, 88, December 7, 2020  
Elizabeth “Liz” Ann Pels Nash, 81, February 3, 2021  
Kennedy Nwabueze Ogbonna, 21, May 4, 2021  
Krystyna O’Neill, 49, September 1, 2021  
Denise Renée Parker, 54, September 7, 2021  
John “Pappy” Parker, 70, December 10, 2020  
Cpl. Christine Lynn Peters, 49, January 14, 2021  
David V. Peterson, 89, December 12, 2021  
David Glenn Rabuck, April 13, 2021  
Mary Renzi, 43, January 11, 2021  
Anne Roberta Ricciuti, 64, June 25, 2021  
Kursat Sarigol, 82, July 18, 2021  
Melvyn Lester Scites, 73, January 1, 2021  
Thomas T. “Tom” Simon, 76, November 13, 2021  
Nancy Mowery Sites, August 31, 2021  
Elaine Ruth Skolnik Nicholson, 95, January 15, 2021  
Jean Fields Smith, 80, December 22, 2021  
Karen Gingell Smith, 62, January 29, 2021  
Mary Barcus Smith, 75, March 18, 2021  
Marilyn “Masha” Maryn Spiegel, 93, September 17, 2021  
Louise Mary Swiderski, 99, September 15, 2020  
James Mann Tharpe, 80, March 23, 2021  
Patricia M. “Pat” Unger, 83, January 15, 2021  
Yoshiko Isobe Waeldner, 89, May 13, 2021  
Linda Long Wampler, 71, October 4, 2020  
Lawrence M. White, 85, May 21, 2021  
Jeffrey “Jeff” Andrew Whiting, 59, March 30, 2021  
Jamya Williams, 20, July 3, 2021  
Craig Thomas Wilson, Jr., 35, February 11, 2021  
David Glenn Wineberg, 69, August 6, 2021  
Daniel Winsky, 58, June 22, 2021  
James “Jim” Robert Wooddell, 67, December 2, 2021  
Edward Wayne Wren, December 11, 2020

- Compiled by Sue Krofchik

Budget Optimizes Resources,  
Keeps City Focused on Needs

by Matthew Arbach

The Greenbelt City Council and staff are looking to create a lean budget, without sacrificing too many of the services and amenities that residents have come to depend on and enjoy. Acting City Manager Timothy George and Treasurer Bertha Gaymon are asking all departments to focus on needs and not wants, as Covid-19 continues to be a major factor in future budgetary projections and plans. Council met with staff on December 22 to begin the discussion on the upcoming budget, to get ready for beginning deliberations in March and to identify the areas they want to prioritize in the coming year.

The current total budget is \$37 million, of which 77.8 percent is the general fund, 3.9 percent is the enterprise fund, 12.3 percent is for capital projects and 6.0 percent for the special fund. Of the general fund, public safety is the largest percentage at 33.28 percent, with recreation the next largest at 20.36 percent.

Mayor Emmett Jordan remarked on the increase of the budget over the past five years, due to the city’s growing population, increased services and the rising cost of living. An approach emphasizing frugality and realistic economic thinking was the consensus of both council and staff, in light of these conditions, with budget numbers not changing substantially from where they are now, if possible.

While not at pre-pandemic levels, Gaymon has seen an uptick in revenues in all city departments due to the slow recovery from Covid, foremost being Greenbelt Recreation. She did not see any significant negative trends.

Gaymon said that abatements (reductions in property taxes per request from the state by a property owner) stand at \$98,000 by the last report, which “was a little larger than was seen this time last year,” but still low, now five months into the current fiscal year. She awaits the next state report in April.

Councilmember Judith Davis stressed that if a lean budget is the goal, it will mean ultimately cutting services, with a corresponding cut of personnel. She hoped that city residents, who are eager for these important and popular programs and amenities to continue, understand this hard financial reality. Davis said that making these kinds of cutbacks was the council’s hardest job. Jordan was reticent to start talking about personnel cuts at this stage, but added that an extensive review of the situation is in order.

A compensation study was

commissioned roughly two years ago which would ascertain current area levels of salaries and benefits for employees. George said that its results would likely be available for the next budget. Council expressed frustration at the delay and were focused on its importance in order to maintain and recruit able and experienced staff.

Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were a major topic of the meeting. The consensus was that they will be treated as a separate reserve and not be part of normal budget planning. As they are only to be for pandemic-related concerns, the view was that they could be used to augment any shortfalls occurring under those prescribed uses.

Stormwater management was considered a possible use for ARPA funds, as it relates to increased precipitation due to climate change. Resident Molly Lester remarked on the 85-year-old system built by the federal government that will require at-

tention in the near future.

Ballfield improvements were advocated for, as they have not been upgraded in some time.

The continuing proposal of a circulator shuttle was broached. While considered a worthy amenity that would enhance the city, most at the meeting deemed it not a good time to budget for this, as it would be an expensive effort in maintenance and manpower.

Gaymon asked the council’s feelings on possibly raising fees for services, as it would be a good source of revenue. Jordan countered that he was more concerned about raising taxes, with many residents already feeling strained financially. Davis added that, historically, fees were not capable of completely covering operational costs.

Overall, council and staff expressed their desire to “hold the line” on the budget in this still uncertain but cautiously optimistic time for the city.



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\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rate is currently fixed at 8.9% for any purchases, cash advances, or balance transfers. There is no annual fee. There is no cash advance or balance transfer fees. Rate subject to change. Membership eligibility required. Federally insured by the NCUA.




**Greenbelt**  
Federal Credit Union



Has Milady lost her glove?

PHOTO BY DAVID SHAPIRO

I GOT  
MY COVID-19  
VACCINE!





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Dr. Jay McCarl, Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, Dr. Richard Duarte, and Dr. David McCarl are licensed general dentists.



MOMENTS continued from page 1

books for teenagers. THE SPACE is funded by private donations although the facility is provided free by Beltway Plaza. Mall management at Beltway Plaza also made an area next to THE SPACE for meditation and to allow people to become “more authentic versions of themselves.”

Higgs also became the art coordinator for the New Deal Café during 2021.

Black History Month

February saw a number of celebrations and educational programs for Black History Month. The city-sponsored events included an account by the Greenbelt Museum telling of the first Black residents moving into the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. housing cooperative. In addition, there were performances by the Belly Dancers of Color Collective and the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Gospel Choir. Additional articles ran to celebrate the month, including reports on a performance by the Female RE-Enactors of Distinction (FREED). This program told the stories of historical women, acted in costume by the group, which spotlighted the contributions of Black women to American society. Another facet of the celebration was the South African play Solomon and Marion, performed by Greenbelt Arts Center. It portrayed the unlikely friendship between Marion Banning, a recently widowed South African white woman, and a young Black man, 19-year-old Solomon Xaba from rural Xhosa.



The Female RE-Enactors of Distinction is a group of women who teach American history, focusing on the people that have been forgotten or overlooked.

Greenbelt West Kids Enjoy Fun Activities in Summer

Being a firefighter involves a whole lot of running, campers at Springhill Lake Recreation Center’s Summer Fun program learned on July 28. Greenbelt firefighters and police came to camp with demonstrations and challenges. With the firefighters, campers tried running with the hoses and putting out a demonstration fire – very exciting. With the police they tried exercises, sat in the front seat of a squad car and tried on the heavy equipment.

This was the first year for the free camp, co-sponsored by Greenbelt Recreation and Boys and Girls Club of America. The 40 slots filled up quickly. The campers, ages 6 to 12, attended half-days for eight weeks, starting on June 28. Lunch was provided by Prince George’s County Public Schools.

A primary effort in the city was food assistance, especially in areas hard hit by pandemic unemployment. Springhill Lake Elementary was the main Greenbelt site for such distributions as part of the camp’s coordinated efforts.



Mike Anige and Lisa Hegwood assist a camper with a hose at Springhill Lake Recreation Center half-day camp.

Three Sisters Garden Thrives On Poetry in the Pandemic

The Three Sisters Demonstration Gardens are located in separate parts of Greenbelt. The Center Garden is located behind the Community Center, the West Garden is located behind the Springhill Lake Recreation Center and the East Garden is in Schrom Hills Park. All three were conceived, developed and implemented by the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS), a Greenbelt-based nonprofit organization committed to learning about the environment and sustainable landscape practices and in promoting ecological stewardship in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The East Garden coordinator is Effie Levner, who worked on

See MOMENTS, page 8

GHI Has a California Sibling? Meet Atchison Village Co-op

by Amy Hansen

In 1941, as we know in this historic New Deal city, the federal government built defense worker housing. The tale is familiar: a new community of duplexes and fourplexes arranged along curved streets with spacious lawns and super block common areas. Then in 1956, the government wanted out of the housing business. The residents mobilized quickly; they wanted to keep their houses out of the hands of the local developers. They held bake sales and raffles and in only 30 days succeeded in raising \$50,000 for the down payment. So far, so familiar.

But wait, this isn’t the history of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. The co-op in question is the Atchison Village Mutual Homes Corporation.

Atchison Village, in Richmond, Calif., remains a housing co-op today, albeit one inside a national park, the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, to be exact.

The village is highlighted in the Rosie the Riveter Visitor Center, which includes a few pictures. The Atchison Village website (atchisonvillage.org) has links to floor plans and a brief history of the co-operative. An oral history is also available through the village’s collaboration with nearby Mills College.

Accounts of the original settlers sound very similar to the history of GHI in Greenbelt. Read some of their stories at academia.edu/23747886/A\_Home\_of\_Our\_Own\_The\_Stories\_of\_Atchison\_Villages\_Longtime\_Residents.



The construction of Atchison Village as shown in the Rosie the Riveter National Park Visitor's Center



Atchison Village as seen in January 2022



A real estate photo of a house in Atchison Village



The coolest snowman in Greenbelt is seen wearing sunglasses and a tie at 2 Gardenway.

Auction

January 3 - January 17, 2022  
4E JP Morgan CT  
Waldorf Md. 20601  
10am -12noon

2005 Ford F-150  
1FTPXO4595KB70868

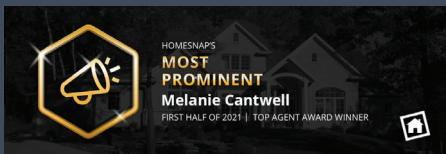
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Melanie Cantwell, Realtor MD & DC  
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C 240.470.5911  
O 301.441.9511  
[Melanie.Cantwell@LNF.com](mailto:Melanie.Cantwell@LNF.com)



LONG & FOSTER  
REAL ESTATE



MOMENTS continued from page 7

making the garden architecturally more interesting by creating entrances into the garden using vines shaped as archways. The garden is filled with small surprises: wicker planters with flowers, hand-painted birdhouses and birds, handmade twig wreaths, a small wicker rocking chair and child-sized tools.

During the pandemic, Levner and others led monthly poetry readings in the gardens. Levner conceived of the event saying, “Nature and beauty come together with poetry.” The garden was in full bloom at the time of the readings, with bunches of grapes dangling from grapevines draped over the arched entryways.

Juneteenth Offers Rededication, Explanation and Contemplation

Juneteenth celebrations got off to a great start in Greenbelt West with the rededication of the Three Sister’s West Garden behind the Springhill Lake Recreation Center in Franklin Park. Carolyn Lambright Davis runs the Earth Squad for the garden, which involves young gardeners from the community. Lois Rosado, chair of the city’s Black History Committee, rededicated the garden by pouring a few drops of water onto the grass. She prayed that, “In the future, all people of the United States can celebrate freedom, as we do today, Juneteenth.”

Numerous additional Juneteenth programs were sponsored by the city, including a heritage walk at Greenbelt Lake, Regina’s Black Artifacts Pop-up Museum inside the Springhill Lake Recreation Center and a food demonstration: How Much Sugar Do You Consume Daily run by Shaymar Higgs of THE SPACE and sponsored by Beltway Plaza.

The newspaper issue of May 25 contains several articles on Juneteenth, including an explanation of the celebration’s origins and a reminiscent walk through the historic Turner Cemetery on Greenbelt’s Ivy Lane, whose gravesites include the remains of those who died in slavery before the city began.



Juneteenth participants surround a statue at the Three Sisters Garden in Franklin Park.

Evictions Due to Pandemic, Related Loss of Employment

Through the year, many individuals, especially those in service industries, lost their jobs due to Covid-19 closings. Rental communities, in particular, were faced with many families who could not afford their rent. Eviction moratoriums prevented the expulsion of those in this situation and as time went on, assistance programs came online to help. The Franklin Park community was significantly impacted and there was concern that when the moratorium was lifted, many people would summarily be on the street.

Franklin Park management reached out to their community to assist them in getting rental assistance. There were some evictions once the moratorium was lifted (particularly for reasons other than rent default) but Franklin Park remained faithful to those willing to work with them to obtain assistance – going door to door to reach those in need and providing bilingual support for filling in applications.

Assistance to renters and homeowners also came via county and city offices, with Greenbelt CARES actively reaching out to renters and condo owners and assisting with applications. Support to those affected in the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. housing cooperative came from donations from members that helped with monthly fees. In-kind support was also offered to those in need by the St. Hugh’s Pantry – including numerous Co-op Supermarket gift cards purchased by residents and by donations for the face masks made available via the Farmers Market by the Greenbelt Mask Makers and others.

Fireflies Sparkle in Summer Evenings in New Sanctuary

May of 2021 saw the opening of the Firefly Sanctuary – a stretch of the Stream Park that runs between Hillside and Crescent Roads behind Northway, where it is dark enough for fireflies to live happily and avoid the siren song of street lights. The Sanctuary became a favorite summer evening stroll for families with kids who, as through time immemorial, raced around to try to catch the magical little sparks of light in their hands. With instructions going out to city staff to avoid mowing the area, and no insecticides or herbicides, the fireflies are promised a protected environment into the future.

See MOMENTS, page 11



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Snowy scenes in Greenbelt on Monday, January 3



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

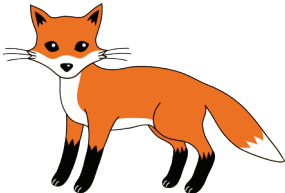
Fox and Squirrel in the Snow, An Ecological Tale of Woe

by Jim Gray

On the morning of January 3, after an inch or two of snow had fallen, I happened to see a squirrel digging in the snow for food. A short while later, I looked out the window again and saw a fox stalking the squirrel. When the squirrel saw the fox, he started to run for safety, but the snow slowed him down. The long-legged fox had no trouble with the snow and was upon the squirrel in an instant. The fox quickly put an end to the squirrel and began to eat him. After satisfying his hunger pangs, the fox carried the carcass off for

safekeeping. Later that morning, the fox came back again to see if there were any other foolish squirrels available. How greedy can one fox be?

Observation: The squirrel would have been camouflaged really well against the ground covered with leaves, but he stuck out like a sore thumb in the snow.



Green Ridge House Opens Wait List

Green Ridge House, the City of Greenbelt’s HUD Section 8-202 apartment building, will open its waiting list from Tuesday, January 18 thru 21, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Green Ridge House is an independent living apartment building located at 22 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

All applicants must apply in person and be 62 years of age or older. All applicants must have with them a valid State ID or Driver’s License and their Social Security card. We cannot accept an application without these two items. All applicants will have a credit and criminal background check performed to determine eligibility.

Applicants should be prepared to move within 30 days once they receive a call that a unit is available. Rent is based upon 30 percent of one’s income within a maximum gross income of \$45,150 for individuals and \$51,600 for couples. All apartments are one-bedroom units. Only applicants who would consider moving within the next 6 months to one year should apply. Green Ridge House is a Non-Smoking Building.



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TOTAL TRANSACTIONS



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COMPASS



# Police Blotter

Information is included for the period from December 27, 2021 through January 4, 2022. Readers who may have information useful to the police are encouraged to call the Greenbelt Police Department's non-emergency number, 301-474-7200 or to email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Note that incident times are when the report was received. The actual time the incident occurred may be earlier.

### Auto-related

On December 31 at 10:28 a.m. in the 14 Court of Ridge Road, property was stolen from a car. Also on December 31, at 2:41 a.m. in the 7500 block of Mandan Road, all four tires and rims were stolen from an auto. Later that morning, a similar incident was discovered at 9:22 a.m. in the 7800 block of Hanover Parkway.

On January 1 at 9:53 a.m. in the 7800 block of Mandan Road, a black 2011 Honda Accord was stolen.

On January 1 at 10:08 a.m. in the area of 14 Court Ridge Road, a passenger side window was reported shattered and three tires damaged. The same evening, at 7:21 p.m. in the 9200 block of Edmonston Road, a passenger side window was broken and work equipment stolen.

### Break-in

On December 28 at 3:58 a.m. in the 7400 block of Greenbelt Road, there was a commercial burglary. On January 1 at 9 p.m. in the 100 block of Greenhill Road, items in a residence were reported as out of place, but nothing was found to be missing.

### Fight

As reported in the News Review last week, on December 28 at 9:47 p.m. in the 6000 block of Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt Police officers observed a large group fight outside the Hook & Reel Restaurant and located a man suffering from serious injuries. He was transported to an area hospital via helicopter. At this time, no suspects are in custody.

### Found

On December 28 at 7:45 a.m.

in the 9100 block of Springhill Lane, a young unaccompanied child was found and reunited with their family.

### Fraud

On December 29 at 9:39 a.m. from the 100 block of Periwinkle Court, a report was received of a counterfeit check.

### Gunshots

On December 27 at 1:37 p.m. in the 9200 block of Springhill Lane, a non-contact shooting was reported. No victims were located.

### Package Theft

On December 30 at 9:09 a.m. in the 9100 block of Springhill Lane, a package theft was reported and although the front door frame was damaged, no entry to the residence was gained.

### Robbery

On January 1 at 10:07 p.m. at the intersection of Cherrywood Court and Cherrywood Lane, an individual reported that two males, one armed with a firearm, had taken some of their possessions.

### Shoplifting

An incident was reported on December 30 at 3:18 p.m. in the 7600 block of Greenbelt Road.

### Theft

On December 27 at 3:54 p.m. in the 22 block of Parkway, items were taken from a residence and on December 28 at 4:17 p.m. in the 7400 block of Greenway Center Drive, items were taken while an individual was moving out of a residence.

### Vandalism

On December 30 at 8:17 a.m., vandalism (unspecified) was reported in the 8300 block of Canning Terrace.

## STERLING continued from page 1

the University of Maryland and Prince George's Community College. It allowed him to become familiar with all aspects of building. He was ranked as #66 in the nation as a master code inspector.

### City Challenges

When asked what challenges lay ahead for the city moving forward, Sterling cited: the need to hire and retain skilled personnel and to make sure they are properly compensated (which the city is addressing with a compensation study), and to invest sufficiently in the city's infrastructure. With additions to the city like Greenbelt Station and the needs of the city's road system, this latter challenge has become more pronounced. Sterling has hopes that the upcoming funds from the American Rescue Plan Act will aid in this effort.

### Council Praise

Sterling enjoys high praise from city council. Mayor Emmett Jordan remarked on his "substantial contributions" to the city, how "his wide-ranging skill set and long experience benefited Greenbelters in many ways," and "his low-key practical approach to managing difficult situations." Councilmember Judith Davis remarked on his "knowledgeable advice and leadership skills," extolling his "loyalty to the city and its residents and his quiet, calm demeanor when dealing with others." She said that "it will take several people to fill his shoes." Councilmember Ric Gordon declared him "one of the many staples here in Greenbelt city government," and while he "will be missed greatly," he "deserves this well-earned retirement."

Recreation Department Director Greg Varda said that in his 23 years working with Sterling, "it became quite evident that Jim truly enjoyed serving the Greenbelt community. Through his knowledge and support, the Recreation Department has been

able to enrich the community through the many programs, services, facilities and parks that are provided. Jim has always been a team player who could be called upon to handle tough situations without hesitation. His dedication superseded 'doing a good job.'" He thanked him for "making Greenbelt a better place to live, work and play now and well into the future." Varda expressed to Sterling: "You will be missed."

### What's Ahead

A Bowie resident, Sterling plans to stay in the area and looks forward to having time for doing some home renovations, to travel a bit and spend more time with his grandchildren. Said Sterling, in retrospect, "I was lucky to be at the right time at the right place."



PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA

A snowy fence leads the eye back into the trees at Greenbriar.

## City Notes

Refuse/Recycling collected 26.94 tons of refuse and 13.76 tons of recyclables. No yard waste or metals will be collected Friday, January 7, due to accumulated snow.

Horticulture/Parks installed a new wooden bench along the path behind the Schrom Hills Park softball field. Park rangers continue coverage of all city parks, seven days a week, from morning to dark. With Covid-19 surging, Recreation staff rescheduled for minimum person-to-person contact, recreation center services are minimized and rentals of the Schrom Hills Park community room have been rescheduled.

Delivery of frozen meals to homebound seniors continues uninterrupted.

At the Community Center, Public Works cleaned office chairs, shampooed carpets and waxed office floors.

Eight cats, six kittens and three dogs spent the holidays in the Animal Shelter and 53 Dog Park permits have been issued.

Prince George's County Fire/EMS conducted Water Training at the Aquatic & Fitness Center.

No evictions information was included this week.



PHOTO BY BILL NORWOOD

Mrs. Snow Cat picks her way across the snow.

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HOUSECLEANING – Over 20 years in Greenbelt area. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or one-time cleaning offered. Local references and free estimates available. Debbie, 301-523-9884.

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COLLECTIBLES – Small collector pays cash for coins/collections. Call Gary, 301-809-0291. Will come to you.

## RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

OVERPAYMENTS: To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, the News Review accumulates overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contributes the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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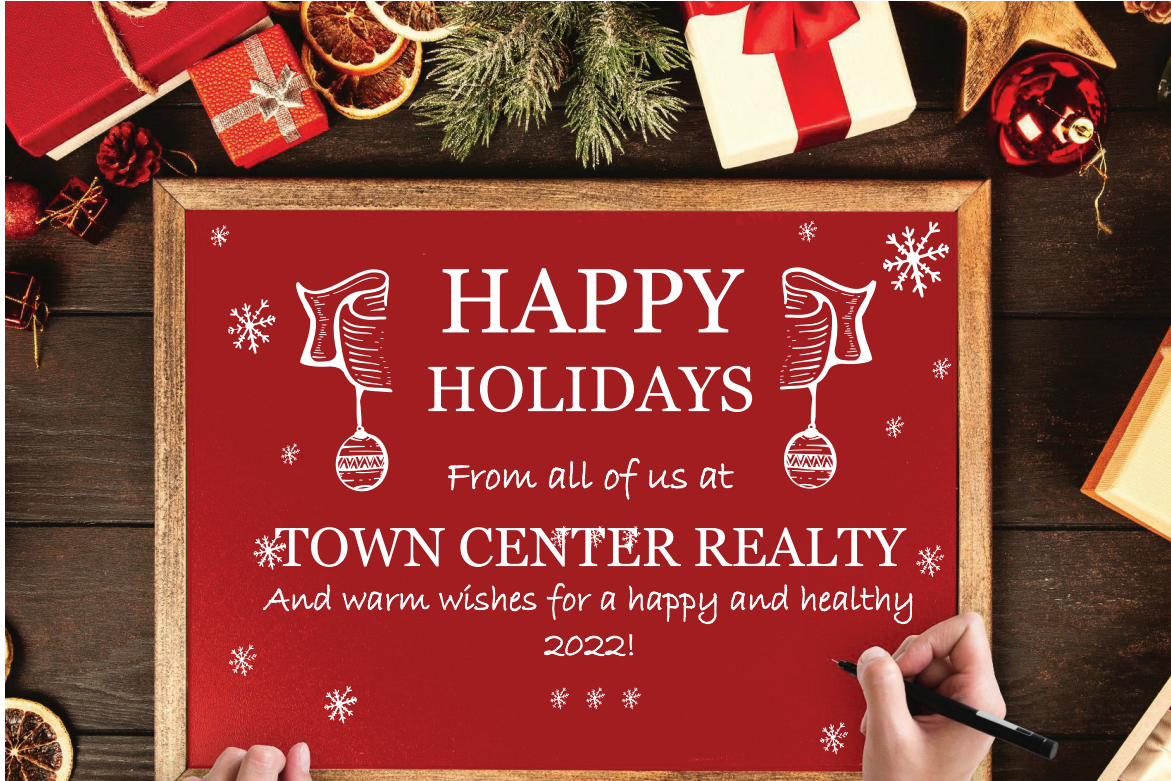
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MOMENTS continued from page 8

Mary Ann Canter led the group that proposed the firefly sanctuary to Greenbelt as a way to make saving the fireflies a permanent endeavor. She said that the main cause of the dwindling number was habitat loss, and the sanctuary has been created to provide a suitably protected space.



Mary Ann Canter poses at the Firefly sanctuary.

Brood X Cicadas Emerge

A welcome diversion from concerns about Covid-19 and threats to American democracy was the mass emergence in mid-May of Brood X periodical cicadas, last seen here in numbers in 2004. A bonanza for hungry birds and other critters, the cicadas were a delight to kids and adults who'd not experienced this natural phenomenon before, as well as to many who had. Their abundance inspired a few Greenbelters to try eating them and many residents to photograph them. The cicadas were mostly gone by late June, leaving behind their carcasses and exoskeletons plus patches of brown leaves in the tree canopy, caused by female cicadas slitting the twigs to deposit their eggs. The next mass emergence of these periodical cicadas should occur in 2038.



Brood X periodical cicadas emerged in mid-May and were everywhere for a few weeks. Their next mass emergence should occur in 2038.



On New Year's Eve, the welcome sign on Southway was knocked down.

COVID-19 continued from page 1

go to princegeorgescountymd.gov/3397/Coronavirus, then find the link to COVID-19 Dashboard under COVID-19 Case Data.

Data for this article were drawn from the dashboard's "current status" page on January 5 at noon and can be found by clicking on the bottom right of that page to go to the "Daily Updates" link. This brings up a PowerPoint briefing dated January 3 and hospitalization numbers are current as of January 2, with other data lagging a few days behind.

Key Metrics

The county uses several key CDC-based metrics to judge the severity of the situation. Of these, the average daily case rate and the percentage of positive tests are now both at the fourth and most critical level, with an average recent daily case rate of ~294 (a daily average of cases over seven days, per 100,000 population) and positive tests at about 26.5 percent. But in keeping with the lowered severity resulting from vaccination and the possibly less severe effects of the Omicron variant, hospitalization utilization parameters were only at the medium level (the second step of four) with approximately 40 to 50 percent capacity still available.

The state of emergency seems out of synch with that statistic and possibly means that Prince George's County is doing better than some areas. Data are also available for Montgomery County through January 4. Numbers indicate that though case rates are extremely high, hospital/ICU utilization is in the 'Low' category – lower even than Prince George's.

Hospitalizations Up

At the beginning of December, under 100 people were hospitalized with Covid-19 in the

county. But by the last week of the month, there were three days with around 300 hospitalized. December 31 reached 314 and January 2 was 302. The rate of new cases, running about 150 per day at the end of November, and already influenced by Delta infections, rose to a total of 2,000 to 2,500 individuals per day in the county for the last few days of December as Omicron surged.

This acceleration was much sharper than the concomitant rise in hospitalizations, meaning, fortunately, that though more county residents are infected, a much smaller proportion so far seems to have become seriously ill. Hospitalizations and deaths generally trail cases and may continue to increase for a while even if infections were to tail off – though there's no evidence of a downturn yet and New Year's gatherings may yet stoke the boiler.


Beds Steady

There continues to be rightful concern about hospital capacity but, so far, the county is holding steady. Counts of available county beds are available through January 2 and the supply seems to have plateaued even as Covid-19 hospitalizations rose – presumably from managing the flow of other procedures. There are 656 regular medical/surgical beds and an additional 160 beds that can be pulled into use. As of January 2, Covid-19 and other in-patients occupied 479 beds of the total 962 – with Covid patients representing just over half that number. None of the emergency capacity was in use. Similarly, of the county's 123 ICU beds, 95 were in use (half of those for Covid patients) with another 43 emergency ICU beds available, of which 12 were in use. At the moment, at least, for those who get sick, there's a bed to lay their head.

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



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# Successful In-person Craft Fair, Plans Underway for Next Year

by Anne Gardner

On Saturday, December 4 and Sunday, December 5, the Community Center and Youth Center were once again filled with color and life for Greenbelt Recreation’s 50th annual Juried Art and Craft Fair. It was almost like the before times, but not quite. Last year, the craft fair moved entirely online. This year, more than 70 vendors participated in person, online or both, offering a wide range of handmade art and crafts, with live music both days. Everyone was masked and the booths were spaced at least six feet apart, with HEPA air filtration units running in the smaller spaces. There was no food or drink for sale.

The vendors were delighted to be back in person and reported very good sales. Comments from the vendor survey included: “I had a fantastic time!” “It was so nice to meet everyone in the community and engage with them in person about my crafts.” “It was just lovely to be back. It was wonderful to be in person.” “It was a fantastic event this year.” “It’s always a joy to participate.” “My favorite event of the year!” “It was an absolutely wonderful event.” “Marvelous!”

Greenbelt residents and others from further afield were also enthusiastic about the return of the in-person event. Susanne Bittle traveled from Bel Air for the show and said, “I was very pleased and delighted with the quality of arts and crafts at this year’s in-person show. The layout for the vendors was well spaced and gave the crowd plenty of room to move around and feel safe during this time of year. It was well worth coming to the show.”

To fit the usual number of booths with the wider spacing, this year the craft fair was spread throughout the gym and the ground floor east area of the Community Center as well as the Youth Center gym – where the craft fair was originally held, back in the 1970s. Both vendors and customers reported a preference for the new spacing. Beside the need for Covid-19 precautions, it made people feel less crowded and rushed, so they could spend more time browsing at each booth and chatting with the artists.

There were live musical performances both days in both



From left, Greenbelters Anne, Avery and Jon Gardner perform fiddle tunes as Transatlantic Crossing in the Youth Center on Saturday, December 4.

- Photos courtesy Greenbelt Recreation Arts



Families peruse the crafts in the Youth Center gym.

gyms, with Hot Club of DC (gypsy jazz) and Celtic Harp in the Community Center and Transatlantic Crossing (fiddle tunes) and Seth Kibel’s Klezmet (klezmer) in the Youth Center. Vendors and customers alike appreciated the festive atmosphere that the music brought to the venues.

Sales were lower for the online portion of the craft fair, perhaps because customers were eager to attend the in-person event where they could actually touch the crafts and talk with the artists. However, some customers

appreciated the opportunity to watch the videos and browse the artists’ websites before attending the in-person fair to shop.

Planning is already underway for next year’s fair, which will be held in-person only on December 3 and 4. Following vendor and customer feedback, the booths will be spaced at least three feet apart – and more if necessary, depending on public health conditions at that time. Applications will open in January and will be posted at [greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltmd.gov/arts). For more information, contact [agardner@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:agardner@greenbeltmd.gov).

# Winter Wonderland Offered Festive Evening, Food, Fun

by Christian Horchler

Boy Scouts of America Venture Crew 746, a co-ed program for young adults ages 14 to 20, held a fundraiser, a Winter Wonderland, on Saturday, December 18 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church. The Crew thanks the church for hosting the event and everyone who supported it – it was a massive success.

A Winter Wonderland included a beautiful lit walk through the woods, hot cocoa around campfires, live music playing in the woods, snowflake art, a live nativity scene, joke-tellers and an informational display detailing what the Venture Crew is all about. Santa Claus was there, showing up on the Greenbelt Fire Department’s vintage fire truck. The Christmas caroling choir did an amazing job, despite the cold.

The Well-Wishers for the Animals of Greenbelt Shelter set up a beautiful winter-themed canopy and brought one of their friendly dogs. Another canopy displayed

how people light up the season in a variety of different cultural and religious ways. The Greenbelt Community Emergency Response Team volunteered at the event to ensure the safety of the guests. There were no first aid incidents to report.

Sponsors included Home Depot, Wegmans and members of the Greenbelt City Council who were key in the creation of this event. Without them, the event would not have been possible.

Families, neighbors and Venture Crew members were all happily involved in coordinating this great event.

Most importantly, thanks to everyone – nearly 200 people – who attended the event. What a great crowd. It was truly an honor planning and hosting the event.

Hopefully, a Winter Wonderland will happen again next year, with even more fun and festive spirit. Happy holidays to all.



Carolyn Bourne and Gabriel Horchler play the roles of Mary and Joseph, with two cute little sheep in the live nativity.



A painted door welcomes visitors to Santa's Workshop.



Greenbelt didn't get snow for Christmas, but that didn't stop the Winter Wonderland crew from including a creatively constructed snowman.



- Photos by Christian Horchler



The Greenbelt Fire Department brought their antique fire truck and Santa.



Artists and the admiring public flock to the Greenbelt Art and Craft Fair which was spread out between the Community Center and the Youth Center.

PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS